

2003 Report of Accomplishments

Mason Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- *Mason Conservation District (MCD) utilizing funding from the Conservation Commission, DOE, SRFB, USF&WS, WDFW and private sources was able to accomplish the following:
Assist over 95 landowners.
Provide cost share funds to 13 landowners totaling over \$ 37,000
Construct over 14,000 feet of riparian fencing.
Complete a fish barrier inventory in WRIA 22.*



Mission of the Mason Conservation District

- *The District desires to make Mason County a better place to live by promoting the wise use and management of all natural resources. We will concentrate on all negative environmental abuse affecting Mason County's air, soil, water, wildlife, and recreation. The District will work toward establishing stewardship practices designed to provide food, clean water, timber, fiber, recreation, and open space needs for ourselves and future generations.*

Water Quality Implementation

- *MCD has been able to accomplish the following with the funding provided through the Commission in the form of the Implementation Grant. Assist 34 landowners with technical support of which 12 landowners were awarded cost share funds totaling over \$ 15,000. Over 6,000 feet of riparian fencing was constructed, 1,220 feet of cross fencing along with other BMPs and 3 in stream projects were completed.*

Basic Funding

- *MCD basic funding supports our efforts in maintaining the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail as an educational venue for both students and the community. Funds are also used to meet our obligation to the WACD in the form of dues and to provide both training and administrative support for District field technicians.*

Local Funding

- *MCD was successful in securing a parcel assessment to begin in calendar year 2003. The funds have been collected, however, due to pending litigation initiated by 4 landowners the program directed toward technical assistance and referral response has not been instituted and the funds remain "frozen".*

Puget Sound/Water Quality

- *MCD utilizes this grant to support its' GIS mapping efforts. The advances which have been made by the district in developing use layers have served all of our current grants. The MCD grant also contains a technical service component. Three landowners have been assisted utilizing funding from this grant. Two farm plans and a bank stabilization project have been completed.*

Professional Engineering

- *Provided Engineering Design and Construction oversight to replace 2 undersized (fish passage barrier) culverts with a 40' span, 2-lane bridge on a rural residential road. This project opened several miles of stream habitat to endangered salmon species. This project will also reduce flood frequency, thus improving water quality by keeping floodwaters from flowing through livestock pastures. Provided technical assistance to 7 waterfront landowners to restore riparian areas, improve fish habitat, reduce flood hazards, and improve water quality.*

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- *Completed maintenance program on 6 riparian planting projects.*
- *Currently a total of 6 projects including 39 acres and 1.6 miles of riparian buffer.*

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *The MCD serves as the Lead Entity for WRIA 14. In that capacity staff of the District has obtained funding for the following projects:*
- *2003 - Gosnell Creek – install 40' bridge opening up 5 miles of stream habitat*
- *2004 – Melaney, Perry and Eich Road culvert replacements – 5.5 miles of stream habitat*

Small Farm Programs

- *The agrarian community of Mason County is comprised almost entirely of small non-commercial farms, thus the accomplishments reported under the preceding categories almost without exception involve the Districts' successes and involvement with what would be considered "small farm programs".*

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- *MCD works in close collaboration with the following groups MC Water Conservancy Board, Simpson Resource Company, Shelton Rotary, UW Sea Grant, HCSEG, SPSSEG, Squaxin Island Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, WSU, Mason County and the Chehalis Basin Education Consortium.*

Information & Education

- *MCD sponsored or participated in the following educational activities this year: Horses for Clean Water, Realtor Continuing Education class, Chehalis Student Congress, Forest Festival Field Day, Workshop (WSU), Oysterfest and Oysterfest Kid's Day, Outdoor School (Evergreen, Pioneer), Environmental Explorations, 4-H Forestry Leadership, 4-H Camp, Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail, Kids With Conservation Knowledge (KWICK) and field activities with Choice and Shelton High Schools.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices

KWICK 2003

